

Thomas Rymer (Child 37A)

- 1 TRUE THOMAS lay oer yond grassy bank,
And he beheld a ladie gay,
A ladie that was brisk and bold,
Come riding oer the fernie brae.
- 2 Her skirt was of the grass-green silk, 5
Her mantel of the velvet fine,
At ilka tett of her horse's mane
Hung fifty silver bells and nine.
- 3 True Thomas he took off his hat,
And bowed him low down till his knee: 10
'All hail, thou mighty Queen of Heaven!
For your peer on earth I never did see.'
- 4 'O no, O no, True Thomas,' she says,
'That name does not belong to me;
I am but the queen of fair Elfland, 15
And I'm come here for to visit thee.
- 5 'But ye maun go wi me now, Thomas,
True Thomas, ye maun go wi me,
For ye maun serve me seven years,
Thro weel or wae as may chance to be.' 20
- 6 She turned about her milk-white steed,
And took True Thomas up behind,
And aye whenever her bridle rang,
The steed flew swifter than the wind.
- 7 For forty days and forty nights 25
He wade thro red blude to the knee,
And he saw neither sun nor moon,
But heard the roaring of the sea.
- 8 O they rade on, and further on,
Until they came to a garden green: 30
'Light down, light down, ye ladie free,

